

I Claim:

1. A method of communication to facilitate forums for discussion, said method comprising:  
  
providing an array of spaced apart locations at each of which a plurality of users may enter into discussion with one another,  
  
providing each location with indicia associated with a subject for discussion,  
  
displaying discussion topics by said indicia at said spaced apart locations,  
  
enabling users to gather together at said spaced apart locations to form groups to pursue the discussion indicated by said indicia,  
  
displaying a new discussion topic by at least one of said indicia at said spaced apart locations to set up a new discussion group,  
  
providing a remote control to remotely alter said indicia at at least one of said spaced apart locations to display new discussion topics to set up a new discussion group at said location, and  
  
controlling said indicia at least one of said spaced apart locations remotely by said remote control  
  
whereby users may participate in person in structured and dynamic networked discussion.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said remote control can alter the indicia at substantially all of said spaced apart locations.

3. A method of communication to facilitate forums for discussion, said method comprising:

providing an array of spaced apart locations at each of which a plurality of users may enter into discussion with one another,

providing each location with indicia associated with a subject for discussion,

displaying discussion topics by said indicia at said spaced apart locations,

enabling users to gather together at said spaced apart locations to form groups to

pursue the discussion indicated by said indicia at said spaced apart locations,

displaying a new discussion topic by at least one of said indicia at said spaced apart locations to set up a new discussion group,

providing a local electronic control at each of said spaced apart locations to locally

alter the indicia at the location associated with said local control to display a new

discussion topic to set up a new discussion group at said location, and

controlling said indicia at least one of said spaced apart locations locally by said local electronic control

whereby users may participate in person in structured and dynamic networked discussion.

4. The method of claim 1 further providing a local control at at least one of said spaced apart locations to locally alter the indicia at the location associated with said local control to indicia associated with a further subject for discussion.

5. The method of claim 4 further providing means for reporting to said remote control data associated with the indicia displayed at the location associated with said local control.
6. The method of claim 1 further providing at least one location with seating.
7. The method of claim 1 further providing at least one location with a table at which users may sit or stand.
8. The method of claim 1 further providing a display for displaying a plurality of the subjects currently for discussion.
9. The method of claim 1 further providing a display for displaying substantially all of the subjects currently for discussion.
10. The method of claim 8 further providing means for said display to be altered by said remote control of claim 1 that alters the indicia at the spaced apart locations.
11. The method of claim 8 further providing means for altering the display from at least one of the spaced apart locations.

12. The method of claim 7 further providing means to illuminate the table top in a color associated in a look up table with the subject to be discussed.
13. The method of claim 7 further providing means to illuminate the table top in a color associated with the subject to be discussed and further providing indicia that may be altered to associate discussion subjects with the colors used to illuminate tables.
14. The method of claim 1 further providing indicia that are local to a plurality of locations and means for altering the indicia to enable users to identify a subject that is common to those locations.
15. The method of claim 14 further providing a display unit to display subjects that are common to a plurality of locations together with the subjects that are associated with each of those locations.
16. The method of claim 1 providing locations with indicia that comprise color whereby indicia associated with similar subjects may display these subjects in the same color.
17. The method of claim 1 to facilitate any one selected from the group consisting of: meetings, conferences, forums, networking sessions, training sessions, educational programs, entertainment, public consultations, qualitative research by market researchers, the gauging of public opinion and news gathering.

18. A communications system, said system comprising;

an array of spaced apart locations at each of which a plurality of users may enter into discussion with one another, each location being provided with indicia associated

with a subject for discussion, and

a remote control for remotely altering said indicia at at least a location to indicia

associated with a further subject, wherein said indicia are used to display discussion

topics and said indicia may be amended to display new discussion topics,

wherein said communications system includes the following communication

protocols:

(1) said indicia are used to indicate the type of discussion or conversation that members of a discussion group wish to pursue

(2) information displayed by said indicia can be altered, replaced or otherwise amended, and

(3) a new discussion group is set up by displaying a new discussion topic.